



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 03/05/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
3/5/08

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Dunn*	Phelps	Mahoney
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Moderator John Leone, Town Counsel John Maher, Affordable Housing Task Force Members John Griffin, Laura Wiener, Minuteman Tech personnel Superintendent Ed Bouquillon, Principal Jim Laverty, Minuteman Tech School Committee Member Laura Morrissette

MINUTES of 3/3 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

ART 54 CAPITAL BUDGET:

VOTED \$8,538,884 distributed according to page 25 in handout of 3/3. Unanimous.

ART 17 EXTENDED OPEN WARRANT PERIOD: Leone stated that he had met w/ the BoS. They have agreed to change their procedures to open the warrant the first week of December & close it the third week of January. He expects this will benefit 10 registered voter articles. Members asked why the warrant could not be finalized more quickly, emphasizing the difficulties its fluidity makes for the FinCom. FinCom will not report based on Maher's assurance that his comment to the BoS no action recommendation will summarize the procedure change that Leone described.

ART 45 APPROPRIATION FOR OPEB TO STAB FUND: Maher advised that this is illegal under our home rule state law. Town must appropriate into OPEB Trust Fund (ART 44).

VOTED no action on Art 45. Unanimous.

ART 19 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST: Griffin stated the wording of this trust fund is based on a similar fund in Andover. Its initial purpose is to segregate & expend funds to be paid to the Town for affordable housing by the Symmes developer in a more transparent way. Wiener described the proposed trust as a "bank account". Maher stated that the Trustees would be able to concentrate on affordable housing issues. Maher also confirmed that the Town would be liable for any losses or errors caused by the trustees. Any employees would be eligible for Town employee benefits. The relationship between the proposed trust the existing Affordable Housing Corporation, the Affordable Housing Task Force and the Housing Authority are unclear. The ability to shut down the trust is unclear.

After some discussion of alternatives:

VOTED no action w/ explanatory comment. Unanimous

ART 60 MINUTEMAN TECH: Bouquillon, using a 37 page budget booklet handout, described the recent accomplishments and changes at the school. He said the per pupil cost is \$20k and most (except for Medford & Woburn) out of district students pay a similar amount. The staff is smaller by attrition. Teachers received a 3% COLA but must pay 25% of their health insurance. He expects Minuteman to no longer be the most expensive vocational school. Only member districts using the middle school program will be assessed for it. Because of these steps and a 10% drop in Arlington enrollment, our assessment will drop 3% in FY09. Bouquillon described his visits to member district superintendents & principals. He said the school gets plenty of applications but must improve its follow through. He described a new program to make weekly contact with applicants & families. He

said the school is planning capital improvements for a plant that is excellent but "tired". Morrissette stated that she is pleased w/ Bouquillon's leadership.

VOTED \$3,153,412. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE The committee received the "final" warrant. Schedule of hearings:

On 3/5 Moderator on Warrant timing, Afford House trust Fund, Minuteman Tech

On 3/10 Permanent Town Building Committee on Thompson School, Water Bodies

No meeting 4/2, 4/7, 4/9

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$276,706.28

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/6/08 Revised 3/10/08

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 1/28	# 2/4	# 2/20	# 3/5	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
18	5	17	17	Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant	3/5		No report
27	7	19	19	Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust	3/5	3/5	No action
20	14	26	26	Bylaw Amend Snow Removal	2/25		
21	15	27	27	Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices	2/4		Tabled Tosti to discuss w/ BoS
63	39	40	41	Increase Accidental Death Benefit	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
64	40	41	42	Extend Benefits	2/4 2/20	2/4	No Action Dunn to write comment.
62	41	42	43	Pension Adjustments	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
66	43	43	44	Transfer to OPEB Funds	2/27		ACRB
65	42	43	45	Transfer OPEB Funds	2/4 3/5	3/5	No action
68	44	45	46	Borrowing for OPEB	2/11, 2/27		
67	45	46	47	Pension Obligation Funds	2/11, 2/27		
45	47	48	49	Positions reclassification	2/27		Phelps to present
43	48	49	50	Collective Bargaining	2/27		
44	49	50	51	Future Collective Bargaining			
46	51	52	53	Budgets			
47	52	53	54	Capital Budget	3/3	3/5	8,538,884
	54	55	56	Swimming Pool	2/6	2/6	Favorable action \$0
55	55	56	57	Sewers			
56	56	57	58	Water			
48	57	58	59	Rescind authority to borrow	3/3	3/3	2724175
50	58	59	60	Minuteman Tech	3/5	3/5	3153412
51	59	60	61	Town Celebrations			Town Man
53	60	61	62	Committees & Commissions	2/27		hearing if last year approp not OK
	62	63	63	TAC Appropriation	2/20	2/20	Fav Action not to exceed \$15000
52	62	63	64	Miscellaneous	2/27		Town Man
28	63	64	65	Town Water Bodies	2/27		Hearing in mid-March
70	64	65	66	Harry Barber Service Program			hearing if last year approp

							not OK
69	66	66	67	Local Option Taxes			
72	67	67	68	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
58	68	68	69	Tip Fund Money Appropriation	2/6	2/6	No action
73	69	69	70	Cemetery			
74	70	70	71	Overlay Reserve Surplus			
75	71	71	72	Stabilization Fund			
76	72	72	73	Free Cash			
59	73	73	74	Medicare Part D Reimbursement	2/6	2/6	No action 9-2
	74	74	75	CRB Report	2/6 2/11	2/6 2/11	Favorable Action Para 1 & 3 Request not require
57	75	75	76	Services to Non-Profits	2/6, 2/27	2/6	No report 9-1 Encourage follow through
60	76	76	77	SPED	2/6	2/6	No action
	54	55		Thompson School			

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/11	2/11	10778	
2	Board of Selectmen	2/20	2/20	398558	
3	Town Manager	3/3	3/3	460104	
4	Personnel	3/3	3/3	190113	
5	Information Technology	2/27	2/27	525,813	
6	Comptroller	2/27	2/27	384,443	
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors	3/3	3/3	301270	
10	Legal	2/20	2/20	460047	
11	Town Clerk	3/3	3/3	234177	
12	Registrar of Voters	3/3			Tabled for more info
13	Parking				
14	Planning				
15	Redevelopment Board				
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/11	2/11	23311	
17	Public Works	2/11	2/11	6831546	15-0-1
17a	Street Lights	2/20	2/20	418893	
18a	Community Safety Admin				
18b	Police				
18c	Fire				
18d	Support				

19	Inspections				
20	Education	2/25			
21	Library	2/20	2/20	1898988	
21b	Veterans				
21c	COA				
22a	Health & Human Services				
23	Retirement				
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund	2/20	2/20	450000	
W&S					
Rec					
Rnk					
COA					
Youth					